

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of this Amendment is respectfully requested. This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2007. By said Office Action, claims 14-17, 25, 46, 47, 49, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thirstrup (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,141). Claims 18-24, 45, and 48 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, independent claim 14 and dependent claims 15-17 have been cancelled. Claims 18 and 48 have been amended and rewritten in independent form. Dependent claims 25, 45, 46, 47, 49 have been amended. Independent claims 19-24 and 50 remain as previously presented.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 14-17, 25, 46, 47, 49, and 50, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thirstrup (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,141). Claims 14-17, have been cancelled. Claims 25, 46, 47, and 49 have been amended to depend to allowable amended claim 18, and are therefore in allowable form. Claim 50 has been left as previously presented, since it is dependent on claim 49, the amended version of which is now allowable.

Objections


The Examiner objected to claims 18-24, 45, and 48, as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 18, by rewriting it in independent form and including in it all the limitations of cancelled claim 14. The Applicant submits that amended claim 18 is now in allowable form.

In view of the amendment of claim 18, the Applicant submits that the base claim upon which claims 19-24 depend is allowable, making claims 19-24 allowable in their present form. Claim 45 has been amended to depend on allowable claim 18 and is therefore in allowable form. Claim 48 has been rewritten in independent form and amended to include all the limitations of cancelled claim 14 and old claim 47, and is therefore in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are allowable over the cited prior art. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures:

- Petition for Extension (Two Months)